

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 19, 2004. Claims 7-11 and 17 are presented for examination. Claims 1-4, 18, 19, and 21-28 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and will not be discussed further. Claim 7 has been amended to define more clearly what Applicant regards as his invention. Claims 7 and 17 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicant notes with appreciation the allowance of Claim 17.

Claims 7-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,552,901 (*Kikuchi et al.*).

As shown above, Applicant has amended independent Claim 7 in terms that more clearly define what he regards as his invention. Applicant submits that this amended independent claim, together with the remaining claims dependent thereon, are patentably distinct from the cited prior art for at least the following reasons.

The aspect of the present invention set forth in Claim 7 is a data communication system. The system includes a connector, an operation input unit, a designation unit, a data transmitter, a transfer unit, a determination unit, and a transfer control unit. The connector connects a network, which is connectable to a plurality of data processing terminals, to the data communication system. The operation input unit inputs a manual designation from an operator and an address for an external data communication terminal. The designation unit designates an ID for specifying a data processing terminal on the network connected by the connector based on the manual designation inputted using the operation input unit. The data transmitter transmits a document based on a designation of an address input by the operation input unit, where the document is transmitted to an external data communication terminal via a

line that does not include the connector. The transfer unit transfers the address of the external data communication terminal, communication result information representing a document transmission performed by the data transmitter based on the designation input by the operation input unit, and the document transmitted by the data transmitter to one of the plurality of data processing terminals connected by the connector on completion of the document transmission performed by the data transmitter. The determination unit determines whether or not an ID is designated by the designation unit, and the transfer control unit controls the transfer unit in accordance with a determination result by the determination unit. The data processing terminal, corresponding to the ID designated by the designation unit, stores the communication result information and the document, transferred by the transfer unit, which correlate to each other.

Claim 7 has been amended to include features substantially along the lines of those of allowed Claim 17, which the Examiner in the Allowable Subject Matter section of the Office Action considers patentable. Those features include inputting a manual designation from an operator, designating an ID for specifying a data processing terminal on the network connected by the connector based on the manual designation inputted using the operation input unit, and a data processing terminal, corresponding to the ID designated by the designation unit, storing the communication result information and the document, transferred by the transfer unit, which correlate to each other.

Kikuchi et al. relates to a client/server system which is constructed in connection with a LAN (Local Area Network) and offers a facsimile communication facility to the user of each client terminal of the LAN.

Applicant submits that nothing has been found in *Kikuchi et al.* that would teach or suggest inputting a manual designation from an operator, designating an ID for

specifying a data processing terminal on the network connected by the connector based on the manual designation inputted using the operation input unit, and a data processing terminal, corresponding to the ID designated by the designation unit, storing the communication result information and the document, transferred by the transfer unit, which correlate to each other, as recited in Claim 7.

For at least the above reasons, Applicant submits that Claim 7 is clearly patentable over *Kikuchi et al.*, and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

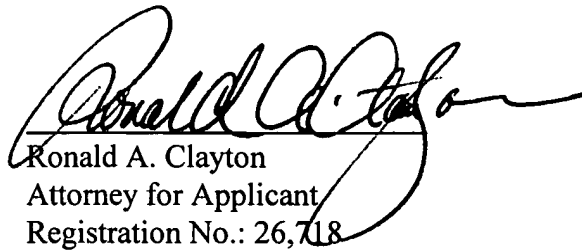
The remaining claims in this application are each dependent from Claim 7 and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

This Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance and, therefore, its entry is believed proper under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116. Accordingly, entry of this Amendment After Final Action, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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